

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) A food serving station comprising:
 - a first support structure;
 - one or more wells supported by the first support structure;
 - a drain manifold fluidly coupled to each of the one or more wells and not fluidly coupled to any other wells; and
 - an overflow conduit fluidly coupled to between the drain manifold and a drain so as to transmit fluid from the drain manifold towards the drain in response to a level of fluid in the one or more wells being at or above a predetermined level, wherein the overflow conduit is entirely external to the one or more wells without passing through or across a wall of the one or more wells.
13. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 12 including a fill valve fluidly coupled to the drain manifold and adapted to be coupled to a fluid source, wherein the fill valve is movable between an open position in which fluid from the fluid source is permitted to flow into the manifold and from the manifold into at least one of the one or more wells and a closed position.
14. (Original) The station of Claim 13 including at least one sensor configured to identify a volume of fluid within the one or more wells, wherein the fill valve moves between the open position and the closed position to a sensed volume of fluid within the one or more wells.

15. (Original) The station of Claim 14 including:
a processor coupled to the at least one sensor and configured to generate control signals based upon the identified volume of fluid within the one or more wells; and
an actuator coupled to the fill valve, wherein the actuator moves the fill valve between the open position and the closed position in response to the control signals from the processor.
16. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 14, wherein the at least one sensor has a sensing portion configured to contact fluid contained by the station only wherein the sensing portion is external to the one or more wells.
17. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 16 including a sensor in fluid communication with an interior of the drain manifold, wherein the sensor is at least partially within ~~the~~ a sensor conduit.
18. (Original) The station of Claim 14, wherein the sensor is configured to detect a level of fluid within the one or more wells.
19. (Original) The station of Claim 18, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect when the level of fluid is less than a preselected level, wherein the fill valve is moved to the open position in response to the level of fluid being less than the preselected level.
20. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 19, wherein the preselected level of the at least one sensor is adjustable.
21. (Original) The station of Claim 14, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect when the level of fluid is greater than a preselected level, wherein the fill valve is moved to the closed position in response to the level of being greater than the preselected level.
22. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 21, wherein the preselected level of the at least one sensor is adjustable.

23. (Original) The station of Claim 14, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect when the level of fluid is less than the first preselected level and when the level of fluid is greater than a second preselected level, wherein the fill valve moves to the open position in response to the level of fluid being less than the first preselected level and wherein the fill valve moves to the closed position in response to the level of fluid being greater than the second preselected level.

24. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 23, wherein at least one of the first preselected level and the second preselected level of the at least one sensor are adjustable.

25. (Original) The station of Claim 12 including at least one heat source supported below the one or more wells and configured to heat fluid within the one or more wells.

26. (Original) The station of Claim 12 including a processor configured to calculate a volume of fluid within the one or more wells based upon a volume of fluid supplied to the one or more wells from a fluid source and an amount of fluid removed from the one or more wells.

27. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 26, wherein the processor is configured to calculate ~~calculates~~ calculate the amount of fluid removed from within the one or more wells based upon an estimated or sensed rate of evaporation of the fluid.

28. (Original) The station of Claim 27 including:
at least one heat source supported below the one or more wells and configured to heat the fluid within the one or more wells; and
a temperature sensor configured to sense the temperature of the fluid within the one or more wells and/or heat emitted from the heat source, wherein the processor is coupled to the temperature sensor.

29. (Currently Amended) A food serving station comprising:
a first support structure;
one or more wells supported by the first support structure;
a drain manifold fluidly coupled to each of the one or more wells and not fluidly coupled to any other wells; and
a fill valve coupled to the drain manifold and external to the one or more wells, wherein the fill valve is configured to be movable to an open position in which fluid flows into the manifold and from the manifold into at least one of the one or more wells.

30. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 29 including at least one sensor configured to identify a volume of fluid within the one or more wells, wherein the fill valve moves between the open position and ~~the~~ a closed position in response to a sensed volume of fluid within the one or more wells.

31. (Original) The station of Claim 30 including a sensor conduit in fluid communication with an interior of the drain manifold, wherein the at least one sensor is at least partially within the sensor conduit.

32. (Original) The station of Claim 30 including:
a processor coupled to the at least one sensor and configured to generate control signals based upon the identified volume of fluid within the one or more wells; and
an actuator coupled to the fill valve, wherein the actuator moves the fill valve between the open position and the closed position in response to the control signals from the processor.

33. (Original) The station of Claim 29, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect a level of fluid within the one or more wells.

34. (Original) The station of Claim 30, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect when the level of fluid is less than a preselected level, wherein the fill valve is moved to the open position in response to the level of fluid being less than the preselected level.

35. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 34, wherein the preselected level of the at least one sensor is adjustable.

36. (Original) The station of Claim 30, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect when the level of fluid is greater than a preselected level, wherein the fill valve is moved to the closed position in response to the level of being greater than the preselected level.

37. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 36, wherein the preselected level of the at least one sensor is adjustable.

38. (Original) The station of Claim 30, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect when the level of fluid is less than the first preselected level and when the level of fluid is greater than a second preselected level, wherein the fill valve moves to the open position in response to the level of fluid being less than the first preselected level and wherein the fill valve moves to the closed position in response to the level of fluid being greater than the second preselected level.

39. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 38, wherein at least one of the first preselected level and the second preselected level of the at least one sensor are adjustable.

40. (Original) The station of Claim 29 including at least one heat source supported below the one or more wells and configured to heat fluid within the one or more wells.

41. (Original) The station of Claim 29, including at least one sensor configured to identify a volume of fluid supplied to the one or more wells from a fluid source, wherein the station further includes a processor configured to calculate the volume of fluid within the one or more wells based upon the identified volume of fluid supplied to the one or more wells from the fluid source.

42. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 41, wherein the processor is configured to ealeulates calculate the volume of fluid within the one or more wells additionally based upon an estimated or sensed rate of evaporation of the fluid.

43. (Original) The station of Claim 42 including:
at least one heat source supported below the one or more wells and configured to heat the fluid within the one or more wells; and
a temperature sensor configured to sense the temperature of the fluid within the one or more wells and/or heat emitted from the heat source, wherein the processor is coupled to the temperature sensor.

44. (Currently Amended) A food serving station comprising:
a first support structure;
one or more wells supported by the first support structure;
a drain manifold fluidly coupled to each of the one or more wells ~~and not fluidly coupled to any other wells~~;
a fill valve adapted to be coupled to a fluid source and configured to supply fluid to the one or more wells, wherein the fill valve moves between an open position in which fluid from the fluid source is permitted to flow into the one or more wells and a closed position; and
at least one sensor fluidly coupled to the one or more wells and having a fluid contacting portion external to the one or more wells, the at least one sensor being configured to identify a volume of fluid within the one or more wells, wherein the fill valve moves between the open position and the closed position based upon the identified volume of fluid within the one or more wells.

45. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 44, wherein the server serving station includes a first support structure supporting the one or more wells, and wherein the system station includes a second support structure supporting the fill valve and the at least one sensor as a unit distinct from the first support structure, and wherein the second support structure is adapted to be removably coupled to the first support structure such that the fill valve and the at least one sensor remain connected to one another after the second support structure is removed from the first support structure.

46. (Original) The station of Claim 44 including:
a processor coupled to the sensor and configured to generate control signals based upon the identified volume of fluid; and
an actuator coupled to the fill valve, wherein the actuator actuates the fill valve between the open position and the closed position in response to the control signals from the processor.

47. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 44 including:
a first support structure supporting the one or more wells; and
a second support structure supporting the fill valve and the at least one sensor as a unit distinct from the first support structure, wherein the second support structure is removably coupled to the first support structure such that the fill valve and the at least one sensor remain connected to one another after the second support structure is removed from the first support structure.

48. (Original) The station of Claim 44, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect a level of fluid within the interior of the one or more wells.

49. (Original) The station of Claim 48, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect when the level of fluid is less than a preselected level, wherein the fill valve is moved to the open position in response to the level of fluid being less than the preselected level.

50. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 49, wherein the preselected level of the sensor is adjustable.

51. (Original) The station of Claim 44, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect when the level of fluid is greater than a preselected level, wherein the fill valve is moved to the closed position in response to the level of being greater than the preselected level.

52. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 51, wherein the preselected level of the sensor is adjustable.

53. (Original) The station of Claim 44, wherein the at least one sensor is configured to detect when the level of fluid is less than the first preselected level and when the level of fluid is greater than a second preselected level, wherein the fill valve moves to the open position in response to the level of fluid being less than the first preselected level and wherein the fill valve moves to the closed position in response to the level of fluid being greater than the second preselected level.

54. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 53, wherein at least one of the first preselected level and the second preselected level of the sensor are adjustable.

55. (Original) The station of Claim 44 including at least one heat source supported below the one or more wells and configured to heat fluid within the one or more wells.

56. (Original) The station of Claim 44 including:
at least one sensor configured to identify a volume of fluid supplied to the one or more wells from a fluid source; and
a processor configured to calculate the volume of fluid within the one or more wells based upon the sensed volume of fluid supplied to the one or more wells from the fluid source.

57. (Currently Amended) The station of Claim 56, wherein the processor is configured to calculate the volume of fluid within the one or more wells additionally based upon an estimated or sensed rate of evaporation of the fluid.

58. (Original) The station of Claim 57 including:
at least one heat source supported below the one or more wells and configured to heat the fluid within the one or more wells; and
a temperature sensor configured to sense the temperature of the fluid within the one or more wells and/or heat emitted from the heat source, wherein the processor is coupled to the temperature sensor.

59. (Currently Amended) A food serving station comprising:
a support structure;
one or more wells having walls forming one or more interiors;
a drain outlet in fluid communication with the one or more interiors;
an overflow outlet in fluid communication with the one or more interiors; and
at least one sensor configured to identify a volume of fluid within at least one of the one or more wells, wherein no greater than two of the drain outlet, the overflow outlet and the at least one ~~probe~~ sensor requires ports through the walls.

60-61. (Cancelled)

62. (New) The station of Claim 12, wherein the one or more wells includes a first well and a second well and wherein the drain manifold is fluidly coupled to both the first well and the second well.

63. (New) The station of Claim 62 further comprising a fluid source fluidly coupled to the drain manifold, wherein a fluid source is configured to supply fluid through the drain manifold to the first well and the second well.

64. (New) The station of Claim 29, wherein the one or more wells includes a first well and a second well and wherein the drain manifold is fluidly coupled to both the first well and the second well.

65. (New) The station of Claim 64 further comprising a fluid source fluidly coupled to the drain manifold, wherein a fluid source is configured to supply fluid through the drain manifold to the first well and the second well.

66. (New) The station of Claim 44, wherein the one or more wells includes a first well and a second well and wherein the drain manifold is fluidly coupled to both the first well and the second well.

67. (New) The station of Claim 66 further comprising a fluid source fluidly coupled to the drain manifold, wherein a fluid source is configured to supply fluid through the drain manifold to the first well and the second well.

68. (New) The station of Claim 59, wherein the one or more wells includes:
a first well having a first interior and a second well having a second interior;
and
a drain manifold fluidly connected to the first interior and the second interior and fluidly connected to the drain outlet.

69. (New) The station of Claim 68 further comprising a fluid source configured to supply fluid to the first interior and the second interior through the drain manifold.

70. (New) A food serving station comprising:
a plurality of wells, each well including a single fluid opening extending through a wall or floor of the well and no other fluid openings;
a fluid source;
a drain; and
a fluid manifold fluidly connected to each of the openings and configured to be selectively connected to either the drain such that fluid may be discharged from the wells to the drain or the fluid supply such that fluid may be supplied to the wells through the manifold.